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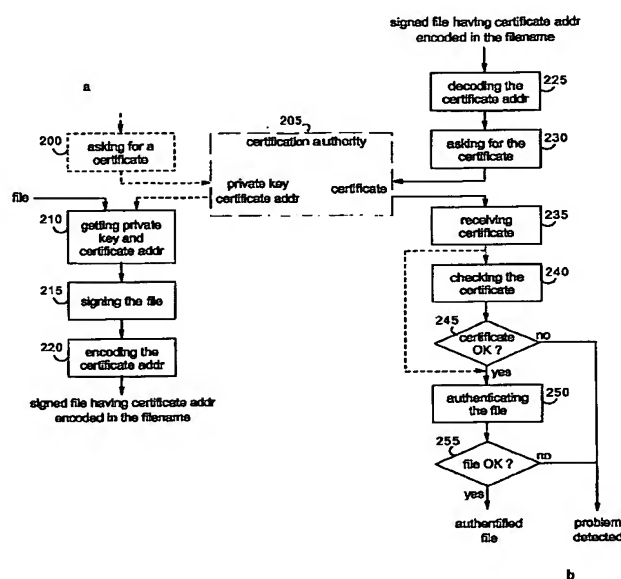
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(54) Title: **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR LINKING CERTIFICATES TO SIGNED FILES**



(57) Abstract: A method and systems for linking the certificate to the signed file to which it is associated is disclosed. According to the method and systems of the invention, the address or URL wherein the certificate is stored is encoded in the filename of the signed file so as to be transmitted jointly with the file. When receiving such a signed file, a first step consists in extracting and decoding the certificate address from the filename. Using the certificate address, the certificate can be accessed and checked before opening and authenticating the signed file. In a preferred embodiment, the signature of a signed file is based on the file content and on a private key while the corresponding certificate comprises at least the corresponding public key.

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